



GUARDIAN OF PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

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News & Articles

Lessons Learned About the Social Toll of Major Disasters

Emergency Management interviewed Pamela Jenkins, a research professor of sociology at the University of New Orleans about the human and community impact of disasters. Her research is based on the lingering effects of Hurricane Katrina, and she discusses lessons learned for long-term planners. [MORE>>](#)

The Specific Role Geoscientists Can Play In Disaster Risk Reduction

Each year, the American Geophysical Union sponsors Meeting of the Americas, a joint assembly that focuses on the specific role geoscientists can plan in disaster risk reduction. Geophysicists play a critical role in natural hazard identification and determining how a hazard will affect a given area and how extensive it will be when it hits. [MORE>>](#)

WHO: Sick Health Workers Were Exposed to Coronavirus Patients

The World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed recently that two health-care workers in Saudi Arabia who are sick with the novel coronavirus (nCoV) had been exposed to infected patients, marking the first time the virus followed that pathway. The two cases are a 45-year old man in critical condition and a 43-year-old woman in stable condition, according to WHO. [MORE>>](#)

Public Health: Are We Too Slow?

The public health system is under more pressure than ever to be relevant, timely, and right. The CDC uses the example of increasing Salmonella infections to discuss pros, cons, and improvements to be made in the areas of public health decision-making and public information. [MORE>>](#)



Research

Preliminary Inferences on the Age-Specific Seriousness of Human Disease Caused by Avian Influenza A(H7N9) Infections in China, March to April 2013

In Eurosurveillance, researchers study what the risk is for serious infection for different age groups for H7N9 influenza in China. They used survey data as well as in-person interview data from two locations in China and assessed poultry exposure by age. They then compared the data to confirmed H7N9 illness. The research showed the likelihood of a person suffering serious illness due to H7N9 increased with age. In a person who is 65 and older there was a 5.1 times higher rate of serious illness than those who were younger. The full study is available online. [MORE>>](#)

Public Health Laboratories in an Age of Austerity

From the Institute of Medicine, Dr. Frances Pouch Downes discusses how austerity measures have affected public health laboratories between 2008

Federal Budget Sequestration Begins to Undercut Extreme Event Preparedness

As the 2013 wildfire season is upon us, the government is facing cutbacks in firefighters, equipment, fire prevention and recovery. Due to an ongoing agency-wide hiring freeze, the National Weather Service office serving the Washington, DC and Baltimore area, for example, has lost a third of its forecasting staff and has suspended a pilot project aimed at helping the community prepare for extreme weather. [MORE>>](#)

Research as a Part of Public Health Emergency Response

Public health emergencies that have occurred over the past decade have yielded important information and data that have contributed to the ongoing effort to improve preparedness and response. Each of these emergencies have also highlighted the need to be better prepared to resolve important research questions in the context of a public health emergency. [MORE>>](#)

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and 2011. She argues there are several challenges that public health laboratories face including lack of new graduates to help provide laboratory staffing and leadership and reduced financial resources. Dr. Downes says that there are tools available to meet these challenges from both the Centers for Disease Control and Association of Public Health Laboratories. She says that part of meeting these challenges is to shift how things are done currently in order to keep the public health laboratory system alive. The full discussion paper is available online. [MORE>>](#)

Major Challenges in Providing an Effective and Timely Pandemic Vaccine for Influenza A(H7N9)

Researchers in the Journal of the American Medical Association discuss the major challenges in providing a timely pandemic vaccine for H7N9 or any other pandemic threat. They argue four challenges that are present for creating an effective vaccine. First: the effectiveness of the new vaccine points to the effectiveness of other similar influenza vaccine types. Second: estimating the correlates of protection; is the concentration high enough in the body to constitute protection? Third: vaccine development can still take a minimum of four months, which affects the timeliness of the vaccine. Finally, currently vaccine manufacturers have to apply for a "strain change" request with the FDA to make new vaccine. The authors argue that in order to speed up the pandemic vaccine to the public, emergency use authorizations should be used instead. The full article is available online. [MORE>>](#)

Influenza A(H7N9): From Anxiety to Preparedness

In the Annals of Internal Medicine a researcher analyzes two issues surrounding the novel influenza virus H7N9. The first question the author poses is should there be a concern about H7N9 influenza virus. They list the three conditions that need to be fulfilled in order to cause a pandemic. They cite the first two, a substantial portion of the population is not immune and the ability to cause disease, have been met. The third, effective human to human transmission has not been met but the author argues that it is not far off. The second issue is whether or not we are fully prepared if this virus goes pandemic. The author argues that we have made progress over the last several years, but still have more work to do to become prepared for the next threat. The full article is available online. [MORE>>](#)

The Michigan Update

Zombies at U of M

University of Michigan's School of Public Health hosted its first-ever zombie invasion on April 23, 2013. The event was based on the Zombie Apocalypse educational program, a public health awareness and preparedness scenario originally developed by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It utilizes a zombie-related disaster simulation to actively engage participants in emergency preparedness and response. The UM SPH adapted the exercise for an all-new experience at the school. Learn more...



- [Video](#)
- [Article](#)
- [UM SPH zombie website](#)

Tools & Resources

Emergency Procurement Strategies for LHDs

A new report from NACCHO establishes what impact an emergency may have on the procurement process within LHDs. The report offers specific examples of how

some health departments addressed their procurement challenges and the five factors influencing the ability of LHDs to expedite the procurement process. [MORE>>](#)

Planning for Avian Influenza A (H7N9)

NACCHO has launched a new webpage featuring resources for LHDs preparing for H7N9. The page contains administrative preparedness reports from NACCHO, updates from CDC and the World Health Organization, and the top 10 tips to prepare for a pandemic response. [MORE>>](#)

Training & Events

FEMA Offers Nonresident Training Courses at No Cost

FEMA's Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) offers a number of Nonresident Training Courses that can be brought to communities free of charge. For specific requirements to host training, please contact Craig Palmer at palmerc@cdpemail.dhs.gov. [MORE>>](#)

3rd Annual Citizen Engagement Seminar

June 6, 2013

8:00 AM (Eastern) - TBD

Live Seminar via Adobe Connect

Many government agencies have already developed creative and interactive programs to extend their outreach to the public. Carahsoft's Third Annual Citizen Engagement Seminar on June 6th will build upon the open government conversation; specifically how your agency can surpass citizens' expectations and connect with them in meaningful and innovative ways.

While this event is taking place in Washington DC, join us live online via Adobe Connect! Ask questions, view presentations, and listen to the speakers and a live audience in real-time from your office!

Hear from keynote Tim Fullerton, Director of Digital Strategy for the Department of the Interior (DOI), as he discusses strategies on government outreach and the power of engaging citizens, along with our State and Local Government panelists, Jenna Covey, Director of New Media at the Office of Governor Mark Dayton, Bill Greeves, CIO of Wake County, NC, and Lindsay Oxford, Social Media Specialist for California State Parks, as they discuss their citizen engagement strategy and agency best practices.

To register, click [HERE](#)



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